

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2023

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear President Biden and Secretary Vilsack:

The United States recently hosted the Agriculture Innovation Mission (AIM) for Climate Summit in Washington, D.C., a forum for public and private sector stakeholders to discuss climate-related issues in agriculture. In reality, the AIM for Climate Summit provided the opportunity for speakers like Special President Envoy for Climate John Kerry to attack America's hardworking farmers and ranchers and paint them as the sole scapegoat for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We strongly urge you to denounce Kerry's remarks. These comments are a blatant slap in the face to the hardworking individuals that spend their lives sustainably producing our world's food, fuel, and fiber.

Although the world agriculture industry accounts for 22 percent of global GHG emissions, Kerry's alarmist narrative does not tell the full story of American agriculture. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. agriculture industry is the lowest emitting economic sector in America. Furthermore, U.S. agriculture only represents 10 percent of U.S. GHG emissions, which translates to just 1.4 percent of 2019 global GHG emissions. In fact, the U.S. agriculture industry has achieved a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions since the 1980s, whereas other top producers, like China and Brazil, have increased emissions up to 86% over the same time.

U.S. farmers and ranchers should be applauded for implementing solutions to protect and conserve natural resources, sequester and harness soil carbon, and increase farm yields, achieving climate benefits as they go. According to the EPA, U.S. land management practices alone removed 764 million metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere in 2018, which is more than the U.S. agriculture sector emits in one year. This is largely due to innovations in technology and science, like precision agriculture technology and biotechnology tools.

According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, U.S. agriculture would have needed nearly 100 million more acres of land 30 years ago to match today's production levels. Animal

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agriculture also continues to make advancements in nutrition, genetics and production practices that reduce their already minimal footprint. Cattle recycle carbon dioxide as part of their natural carbon cycle and the U.S. beef industry has reduced emissions by more than 40% between 1961 and 2018.

American farmers and ranchers are committed to being stewards of the land. We are appalled by the comments made by Special Presidential Envoy for the Climate Kerry and ask that your administration recognize the responsible efforts agriculture producers make every day to feed, clothe and fuel the world. Farmers and ranchers are the lifeblood to our food security, and a nation that cannot feed itself would not be a nation at all. We strongly urge you to condemn Kerry's remarks and support American agriculture.

Sincerely,



Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

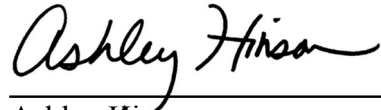


Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
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Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
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Member of Congress



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Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Intelligence
and Special Operations

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Sam Graves
Member of Congress



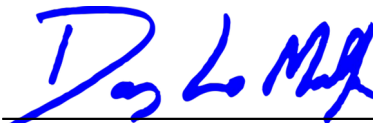
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Member of Congress



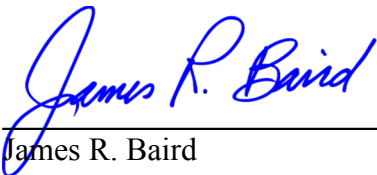
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